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Centd.*

comprising 65% to 99% by weight water and an organic component containing molecules having lipophilic and hydrophilic groups, wherein at a temperature at which cleaning takes place, said organic component is present in said water at a concentration greater than its miscibility in said water, whereas at at least one of a different temperature and a different concentration, said organic component is completely dissolvable in said water so as to form an optically clear liquid, and wherein said liquid cleaning composition, during a cleaning, is maintained in a status of an emulsion with droplets of an organic phase in a continuous aqueous phase.

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49. (Amended three times) A method according to claim 47, wherein the emulsion is maintained by agitation or by applying ultrasound.

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50. (Amended three times) A method according to claim 47, wherein said organic component is such that said liquid cleaning composition has a constant boiling temperature or has a boiling temperature which changes so as to become constant during boiling of said cleaning composition to form an azeotrope, and which furthermore includes the steps of vaporizing said liquid cleaning composition, and of causing vapor from said liquid cleaning composition to condense on said article that is to be cleaned therewith.

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61. (Amended twice) A liquid cleaning composition according to claim 54, wherein said organic component is a solvent having the general formula:



where R^1 and R^3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_3 to C_{18} alkyl groups, in

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Cont'd.*

which one or more nonadjacent -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -O-, imido in which the hydrogen may be replaced by C₁ to C₈ alkyl groups, saturated or unsaturated cyclic C₃ to C₆ groups, in which one or more nonadjacent -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -O-, imido in which the hydrogen may be replaced by C₁ to C₈ alkyl groups;

X is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(=O)-, -C(=O)-O-, -NH-, -NR⁴- (where R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of H, CH₃, C₂H₆, and straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₃ to C₁₅ alkyl groups), -N(OH)-, straight-chain or branched C₂ to C₈ alkylene groups in which one or more nonadjacent -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -O-;

and n represents whole integers.